

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT**

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the following project:

**Title Transfer of a Federally-Owned Water Distribution System to the
Montecito Water District**

Project Location: Summerland area of unincorporated Santa Barbara County, California

Description of Project: The proposed project is a transfer of ownership of an existing water distribution system from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) to the Montecito Water District (MWD). The service infrastructure is located within the MWD boundaries and is currently operated and maintained by MWD. The Bureau-owned distribution system includes 2-10" diameter pipelines and appurtenant infrastructure (e.g., valves, end drains, etc.), located throughout the Summerland area within the MWD's current boundaries and the Asegra Pumping Plant. There are just under six miles of functioning pipelines and less than one mile of abandoned pipeline comprising the system. The proposed project is only a transfer of ownership of the distribution system and does not include any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure.

The purpose of the project is to simplify the operation and maintenance of the distribution system by reducing unnecessary paperwork and consultation between the two agencies.

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EA has been circulated for the above project. The public review period for the EA opens on September 15, 2000 and closes on October 16, 2000. For additional information or to obtain copies of the draft EA, please contact Mr. David Young, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation at 559-487-5127 (or TDD 559-487-5933). Electronic mail: dyoung@mp.usbr.gov. Copies of the draft EA may be viewed at the Bureau's South-Central California Area office located at 1243 N Street, Fresno, California 93721-1813. Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Young at the above address by October 16, 2000. Copies of the EA are also available for review at the Montecito Water District office located at 583 San Ysidro Road, Montecito, California 93108 (phone number 805-969-2271).

Any persons interested in this matter are invited to review the draft EA and present written comments. If you challenge the proposed project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised in response to the document described in this notice.